



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.

- Regional Outreach meeting -

Date: 20 – 22 October 2013

Venue: Leriba Lodge, Pretoria, South Africa



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Working Group II (WG II) – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Lesetseha • Learning Mind • Disagreement to Enrich



CONCEPT NOTE

IPCC SREX REGIONAL OUTREACH MEETING – PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

BACKGROUND

Governments recognize the importance of coordinating their climate change adaptation plans with disaster risk reduction measures. They also recognize that these policies should be incorporated into their development and poverty eradication programmes. All states in the southern African sub-region face the challenges of rural and urban poverty, limited water or access to water resources, food insecurity, and other development challenges. Thus, although countries of the sub-region may have differing developmental priorities, they often face similar risks that are usually exacerbated and placed under additional stress by climate variability and climate change prompting a range of adaptation needs. Southern Africa and the region at large will therefore strive to develop climate change adaptation strategies based on risk and vulnerability reduction sharing resources, technology and learning to coordinate a regional response.

A regional approach that achieves climate resilience will have significant socio-economic benefits for countries, sectors and communities. In the absence of effective adaptation responses, the costs and losses associated with disasters and slower onset climate changes and climate variability could threaten and even reverse many development gains made in the region. Future climate trends are uncertain and the uncertainty rises steeply over the longer-term. Objectives for adaptation must therefore be able to adjust to changing circumstances and time-frames. Several countries in the region have begun to craft either climate change strategies or disaster risk reduction strategies. The South African White Paper on National Climate Change Response Policy, for example, in section 5.1, provides clear policy direction on action to be taken to facilitate South Africa's readiness to *"effectively manage inevitable climate change impacts through interventions that build and sustain South Africa's social, economic and environmental resilience and emergency response capacity"*.

Disaster risk reduction and management are adaptations to climate change because both address vulnerability to climate change-related impacts. Resilience to climate change-related extreme events, such as heat waves, floods, droughts, wildfires and storm surges, is an essential approach that can help reduce risks to both fast and slow onset disasters. Extreme weather events often cross country borders and impact on the region as a whole. As such a region-wide approach to disaster management is often needed. Climate change will require more effective disaster management to deal with the increased number of extreme weather events. The increase in extreme events will strain public resources due to the need to declare and support disaster areas in an immediate crisis as well as during long term recovery.

In 2012, the IPCC published the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (IPCC SREX), which addresses how integrating expertise in climate science, disaster risk management, and adaptation can inform discussions on how to reduce and manage the

risks of extreme events and disasters in a changing climate. The report evaluates the role of climate change in altering characteristics of extreme events. It assesses experience with a wide range of options used by institutions, organizations, and communities to reduce exposure and vulnerability, and improve resilience, to climate extremes. Among these are early-warning systems, innovations in insurance coverage, improvements in infrastructure, and the expansion of social safety nets. This report also incorporates case studies that illustrate specific extreme events and their impacts in different parts of the world, as well as a range of risk management activities.

The report provides information on how:

- Natural climate variability and human-generated climate change influence the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, and duration of some extreme weather and climate events;
- The vulnerability of exposed human society and ecosystems interacts with these events to determine impacts and the likelihood of disasters;
- Different development pathways can make future populations more or less vulnerable to extreme events;
- Experience with climate extremes and adaptation to climate change provides lessons on ways to better manage current and future risks related to extreme weather and climate events, and populations can become more resilient before disasters strike

The United Nations International Strategy for Risk Reduction (UNISDR) also supports these efforts at the highest levels by developing specific policies at the international level on the linkages between reducing disaster risk and responding to climate change, guiding national and regional action to integrate policies and practices, and strengthening capacities to support the integration of disaster reduction and climate change by all actors. The SREX Regional Outreach Event is part of a series of initiatives aimed at disseminating “The IPCC Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” (SREX) in Southern Africa and promoting dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders on the implication of the report for the region. SREX is the outcome of cross-disciplinary teamwork between scientists studying the physical aspects of climate change, scientists with expertise in impacts, adaptation and vulnerability as well as experts in disaster risk management. SREX has assessed a wealth of new studies, and new global and regional modelling results that were not available at the time of the Fourth Assessment Report in 2007, its last major assessment of climate change science.

The overall goal of the proposed meeting is to discuss the SREX approaches on extreme events, by assessing the scientific literature on issues that range from the relationship between climate change and extreme weather and climate events (‘climate extremes’) to the implications of these events for society and sustainable development. In order to cover regions and a wide range of topics, several sessions will be hosted to discuss regional matters, focusing on policy and implementation, major science findings and the implications for local communities; and the need for climate information and services. This meeting will be hosted in South Africa, led

by Working Group II of the IPCC in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs, Academic institutions (University of Pretoria and the University of the Witwatersrand), and in partnership with the Norwegian Government.

International organizing committee

Professor Chris Field, Carnegie Institution, IPCC.

Linda Sygna, University of Oslo

Øyvind Christophersen, Norwegian Environment Agency

Arman Aardal, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Local organizing committee

Mr. Shonisani Munzhedzi, Department Environmental Affairs, South Africa.

Mr. Vhalinavho Khavhagali, Department Environmental Affairs, South Africa.

Professor Coleen Vogel, University of Pretoria

Professor Mary Scholes, University of the Witwatersrand

Dr. Ute Schwaibold, University of the Witwatersrand

Logistics: Dates of the meeting: 20-22nd October, 2013. Venue: Leriba Lodge, Pretoria, South Africa.

Format: Given that the idea is to focus strongly on dialogue and knowledge exchange of climate extremes the meeting will *involve* a few plenary presentations, a number of small-group presentations, and significant discussion about the science of extremes, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation, focusing on both practitioner and academic experience.

Day 1	20 October 2013
Time	Item
16:00 - 18:00	Registration
18:00 - 19:15	Welcoming words by the Department of Environmental Affairs DDG Judy Beaumont Welcoming words by Norwegian Environment Agency - Øyvind Christophersen , Introduction to SREX: - Working Group II of the IPCC - Chris Field
19:45	Cultural activities Cocktail Dinner

Day 2	21 October 2013
Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and tea/coffee available
09:00 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony- : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Director-General Dept. of Environmental Affairs- Nosipho Ngcaba – Norwegian Environment Agency - Øyvind Christophersen, – IPCC WG Co-Chair – Chris Field – Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs The Honourable Mrs. Edna Molewa
10:00 – 10:30	Press Conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs The Honourable Mrs. Edna Molewa – Director-General Dept. of Environmental Affairs- Nosipho Ngcaba – IPCC WG Co-Chair – Chris Field
10:00 – 10:30	Tea/Coffee
10:30 – 12:30	Panel Discussion: Managing Climate Extremes in Southern Africa – Lessons from the IPCC SREX Report- Mary Scholes The purpose of this session is to review the major findings of SREX and to initiate discussions of the implications for the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Overall framing, discussion of exposure/vulnerability (Chapter 1 or 2) – Linda Sygna – Regional observations and projections of extremes (Chapter 3) – Mark New – Regional impacts, losses (Chapter 4) – Guy Midgley – Risk management measures, both incremental and transformative (Chapters 5-8) - Bettina Koelle – Regionally focused case studies (Chapter 9) – Coleen Vogel
12:30 – 13:00	Discussions
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 – 14:15	Introduction to working groups- Brian Mantlana The purpose of the working groups is to allow for knowledge exchange across the region and across the sectors.		
14:15-16:30	Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3
	Regional Action: Responding to the SREX Report Findings	National Action: Responding to the SREX Report Findings	Community Action: Responding to the SREX Report Findings
	Chair: Debra Roberts Rapporteur: Mapula Tshangela	Chair: Themba Dube Rapporteur: Anne Bruwer	Chair: Chris Moseki Rapporteur: Telly Chauke
	<i>Guiding Questions:</i> Are regional institutions and policy frameworks adequate for dealing with the challenges set out in SREX? If not, what needs to change? Are these incremental or transformative? Is the use of science and social science in guiding policy and decision-making sufficient? How can action become more evidence based? How can uncertainty in projections be dealt with regionally?	<i>Guiding Questions:</i> Are national institutions and policy frameworks adequate for dealing with the challenges set out in SREX? If not, what needs to change? Are these incremental or transformative? Is the use of science and social science in guiding policy and decision-making sufficient? How can action become more evidence based? How can uncertainty in projections be dealt with regionally?	<i>Guiding Questions:</i> How suited are community-based approaches to future changes in extreme events, vulnerability and exposure? What changes are needed at community level to reduce impacts? How can action become more evidence based? How can uncertainty in projections be dealt with regionally?
16:30 – 17:00	Report backs from working groups followed by discussion chaired by Brian Mantlana		
17:00 – 18:00	Pre-dinner drinks and networking		
18:30 - 21:00	Dinner and networking (to be hosted by the South African Government)		

DAY 3	22 October 2013
Time	Item
08:30 – 09:00	<p>SREX Hard Talk -: Flora Mokgohloa</p> <p>Setting the scene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extreme events, livelihoods, infrastructures and socio-economics – Rudzani Malala – Sustainable development and resilience in Cities – Dorah Nteo <p>Plenary discussions: Chaired debate on key questions raised by SREX: the purpose of this session is to establish where is there is hard evidence vs anecdotal information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Disasters are predominantly caused by skewed development – Disaster risk reduction must be a cornerstone of national economic and social policy – What does it mean for region x now we know that there is an human imprint on some disasters? – What more needs to be done to avoid the collapse of the humanitarian system? – How to create more synergy between disaster risk reduction and climate change? – What are the conflicts of interest, with adaptation, DRR and sustainable development being highly political issues? <p>Panel Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IPCC/SREX author team – Chris Field, – Forecasting and Disaster Interface: – Rudzani Malala – Cities and Resilience: - Dora Nteo – Energy and Infrastructure – Lwandle Mqadi – Rural Development: - Enoch Mhlanga – Youth perspective– Lydia Mogano
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee Break
11: 00 -12:00	<p>Policy and Practice Forum- Vhalinavho Khavhagali</p> <p>The purpose of this session is for a number of short presentations to be made by representatives of various sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – National Climate Change Response Policy - DDG: Judy Beaumont – National Systems for Monitoring and Evaluation - Brian Mantlana – National Early Warning Systems- SA Weather Services- Eugene Poolman – National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) – Ken Terry – SA Science Service Centre for CC and Adaptive Land Use – Luthando Dziba – Long Term Adaptation Scenarios (LTAS) - Guy Midgley – Applied Center for Climate & Earth Systems Science (ACCESS)– Neville Sweijd <p>Discussions:</p>

